'Operation Fire Control' Project to Contain Fire Coal Mines

1792. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Bharat Coking Coal Limited has launched a Rs. 125 crore 'operation fire control' project to contain underground fire in coal mines;

(b) since when the fire has been raging in coal bearing pits; and

(c) what is the total amount spent so far on containing the underground coal mine fire and the extent of success achieved so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) to (c) The first fire in the Jharia Coalfields was reported in 1916 followed by other fire occurrences later on. There are 70 fires in 40 collieries of Bharat Coking Coal Limited in the Jharia Coalfields. Projects covering 48 fires at an estimated expenditure of Rs. 125 crores are at various stages of implementation. The methods adopted are blanketing, trench cutting, digging out of coal, water infusion, sealing of outlets with isolation stoppage, injection of cement |bentonite etc. Due to these steps in many of the cases, it has been possible to control the fires or partly extinguish them. Amount spent in dealing with these fires upto March, 1986 was Rs. 52 crores approximately.

Claim of Reliance Industries Ltd.

1793. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the claims of Reliance Industries Ltd., is correct that their Polyester Filament Yarn Plant was completed in just 14 months whereas other private sector companies took about 30 months to 60 months; if so, what are the details thereof;

(b) whether it is a fact that Reliance Commissioned the 45,000 tons PSF plant in 14 months whereas the public sector undertaking is building 30,000 tonnes plant since 1980; if so, what are the details about the escalation in the cost; and

(c) wheher it is also a fact that two other companies are building 15,000 tonnes per year PSF plant each for the last 24 months and still these are incomplete; if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETROCHEMICALS (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH): (a) Along with M|s. Reliance Industries Ltd., two more Letters of Intent were issued on 4-12-1980 for manufacture of Polyester Filament Yarn. M|s. Reliance Industries Ltd, commenced production in October, 1982. Out of the remaining two one commenced production in March, 1982 while the second one is yet to commence production.

(b) In February, 1985, M|s. Reliance Industries Ltd, were issued a letter of intent for manufacture of Polyester Staple Fibre for a capacity of 45,000 tonnes|annum and it has been reported that they have commenced production in March, 1986. In December 1980, M|s. Bongaigaon Refinery and Petrochemicals Ltd, were isued a letter of intent for manufacture of Polyester Staple Fibre for a capacity of 30,000 tonnes at an estimated cost of about Rs. 139.40 crores. This unit is expected to be mechanically completed by December, 1986.

(c) M/s. India Polyfibres Ltd. (a joint sector unit of Govt. of Uttar Pradesh) and M|s. Orissa Synthetics Ltd. (a) joint sector unit of Govt. of Orissa) had been issued letter of intent for manufacture of Polyester Staple Fibre for a capacity of 15,000 tonnes. annum each in July, 1981. These units are expected to go into production by end of 1986.